

SECTION 29

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

THE WEATHER OF 1948

"Warmest on record with average rainfall but very wet in May and June".

All will long remember the very wet months of May and June, 1948 when Island communications and transport services were seriously dislocated by heavy rains. The normally drier Parishes of St. Andrew, St. Catherine and Clarendon received almost as much rain as the usually wettest parish of Portland, in these two months in fact about a quarter of their annual rainfall fell.

The Island rainfall as a whole was 102% of the 25 year mean varying from 119% in St. Thomas to 86% for Kingston and St. Andrew.

It is worthy of note that Kingston (P.W.D.) only recorded measurable rain on 34 days which is under half the long term mean of 79 days, although the annual amount of 39.27 inches was 143% of the mean. This was due to the heavy rains in May and June when almost 20 inches fell in 10 days.

The mean morning and afternoon temperatures, the mean daily temperature and the mean maximum and minimum temperatures for every month exceeded the 33 year means. The greatest departures were in February and March which were about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ° higher than usual. 1948 mean daily temperature was the highest on record.

EXTREMES

January gave the widest range of temperature of 29° F. at Negril point whilst the widest range in Kingston was in February with 27° F. The highest maximum temperature in Kingston occurred on July 1st when the mercury reached 95.4° F. almost as high as last year's 96.0° F. The hottest day at Hope Gardens was on the 1st September when the maximum thermometer reached 96.9° F.

NORTHERS

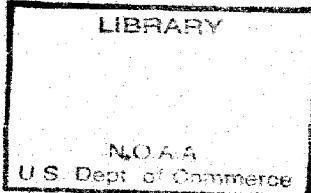
There were no Northerns during 1948 but the heavy rains of May and June were caused by the penetration aloft of cold air from the North American Continent. It is worthy of note that the May rains were caused by the formation of a small "temperate latitude" depression with a wave on a "cold front". This Depression moved NE along the front and brought phenomenal flood to the Dominican Republic as well as to Jamaica.

TROPICAL STORMS

Eight tropical storms were reported in and around the Caribbean but none were sufficiently near the Island to justify a hurricane warning. The third storm of the season (August 26th—September 2nd) gave 50 knot winds when east of the Windward Isles and although the winds moderated when the storm entered the Caribbean, heavy rains spread to Puerto Rico, where they relieved the drought there. The sixth storm of the season passed south of Jamaica on September 18th as a small disturbance with fresh winds giving over 3 inches of rain at Kingston. It gathered strength when just south-west of Grand Cayman and reached full hurricane force as it passed over Cuba. Key West, Florida reported winds of 106 knots, and the hurricane did tremendous damage as it journeyed northeast winds across southern Florida.

The next storm of the season also passed south of Jamaica early in October but did not develop until it was near Cape Gracias, Honduras. It then moved north across Cuba and turned northeast just skirting the Miami area giving winds of 60-70 knots at sea.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATION

SECTION 29

NEGRIL POINT LIGHT HOUSE, JAMAICA.—Mean Meteorological Results for the Year 1948. Latitude 18° 15' North. Longitude 78° 23' West.

Month	Air Temperatures (Fah.)						Dew Point						Rainfall Inches						Wind																		
	Means of			Absolute Max. and Min.			Relative Humidity			Amount of Cloud			No. of days of			No. of observations of			N			S			SW			NW									
	7 a.m.	1 p.m.	7 p.m.	Max.	Min.	Max.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	7 a.m.	7 p.m.									
Jan.	29.957	72.2	84.6	77.3	67.3	86.0	60.0	23	89.0	2*	68	70	71	86	62	79	4.0	4.8	5.6	5.95	1.46	14	7	4	11	9	0	27	30	8	11	2	3	3	3		
Feb.	29.903	71.7	84.4	77.8	67.2	86.3	64.0	22	89.0	13*	67	70	70	84	62	77	1.3	5.0	5.2	5.67	0.32	27	6	1	17	6	0	9	19	30	7	10	6	6	0	0	
Mar.	29.949	71.4	84.7	78.7	66.3	86.8	63.0	12	90.0	23	66	69	70	84	59	75	2.3	4.8	5.1	5.26	0.12	15	4	0	13	10	0	3	13	23	18	24	4	3	4	1	
April	29.937	74.7	85.1	78.8	66.7	87.2	64.0	10	90.0	4*	68	71	70	79	62	74	4.3	4.2	4.7	1.31	0.43	14	6	2	11	4	0	12	13	19	10	15	7	5	7	2	
May	29.983	77.7	85.3	79.4	66.8	87.6	66.0	2	92.0	4*	72	74	73	83	68	81	4.9	6.6	7.5	8.01	1.47	21	14	14	2	12	13	0	12	13	25	20	7	4	5	1	5
June	29.923	78.5	86.7	80.5	71.2	88.3	70.0	7	91.0	22	73	74	74	81	66	81	5.3	5.7	7.9	8.69	3.07	2	16	13	2	9	0	4	12	26	15	6	11	2	3	3	
July	29.935	77.5	86.1	80.7	71.2	88.8	69.0	4	91.0	18	72	75	75	82	69	82	5.0	6.4	6.4	4.80	1.18	12	14	22	7	11	0	6	20	31	14	9	2	5	5	1	
Aug.	29.907	77.3	87.3	81.3	72.2	89.6	71.0	1*	91.0	1*	72	75	75	82	67	80	5.6	4.7	6.7	4.69	1.70	25	13	22	4	9	0	9	16	24	17	9	4	11	1	3	
Sept.	29.849	77.6	86.9	81.7	72.5	88.2	70.0	24	93.0	30	73	75	75	85	68	80	5.7	5.3	7.0	8.62	1.42	18	15	20	3	12	0	3	7	22	2	1	3	0			
Oct.	29.865	76.0	86.8	79.1	72.1	87.9	71.0	2	91.0	21	72	75	74	89	68	84	6.3	6.1	4.5	4.41	1.41	25	15	20	3	6	0	14	15	24	26	6	0	2	2	4	
Nov.	29.881	74.1	86.9	77.7	71.4	88.3	65.0	17	92.0	4	70	73	73	85	64	85	3.0	4.0	4.4	5.00	1.00	19	11	19	6	5	0	9	30	23	12	7	1	3	5	0	
Dec.	29.953	71.4	84.6	75.4	68.5	86.2	65.0	13	89.0	2	67	70	71	87	62	86	1.6	4.5	4.3	3.98	0.75	8	16	10	17	4	0	12	27	23	12	7	3	1	2	6	
Means	29.919	75.0	85.8	79.0	69.5	87.6	66.5				70	73	73	81	65	80	4.1	5.2	5.8		56.38		137	259	106	67	0	69	211	301	189	33	46	56	35	28	
Totals																																					

*And other days. **Mean Cloud amount 9/10/10.

†Mean Cloud amount 0/2/10. Barometric Pressure reduced to the Standard of National Physical Laboratory 32°. Gravity at Latitude 45° and to Mean Sea Level. The 75th Meridian West of Greenwich Standard Time used. Altitude of Standard Barometer above Mean Sea Level 22 ft. Height of Thermometers above ground at 4 ft. 6 ins. Height of Rain-gauge above ground 3 ft. Height of Anemometer above ground 18 ft.

STATION NOTES

The climatological readings for Kingston are made from several stations. Temperatures and humidity are measured in a Stevenson Screen situated in Winchester Park and supervised by the Society of Jesuits. The exposure is good and the readings are considered representative of the area. Rainfall is measured at the Public Works Office but there are several other gauges within a two mile radius with which to compare. This is necessary with the capricious nature of Jamaica rain. Cloud weather and wind are recorded at Palisadoes Airport situated on the seaward side of Kingston Bay. This is a full time synoptic and climatological meteorological station, first class, maintained by Air Ministry staff, and is the forecast centre for the western Caribbean. Here the exposure is excellent but the cloud amount tends to be less than over the City. Showers are also less frequent. The day sea breeze sets in earlier at the Airport and apparently is stronger, while the night land breeze which cools the urban area does not appreciably affect the Airport till dawn. Wind is recorded by Dines Pressure Tube Recording Anemometer.

Both Morant Point and Negril Point Light house are full synoptic reporting stations with a good complement of instruments. Exposures are open and very good, the sites at the extreme east and west extremities of the Island being excellent for their main purpose of weather reporting for immediate international synoptic use.